



King County

RECOGNITION

WHEREAS, in 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt drafted over 200,000 members of the Philippines Commonwealth Army and the Special Philippines Scouts into American Military Service to fight in the Pacific as part of the United States Armed Forces of the Far East; and

WHEREAS, bravely fighting alongside American allies and suffering through horrific experiences such as the Bataan Death March, many of the Filipino soldiers sacrificed their lives, and those that survived were promised by the U.S. government that they would be considered U.S. veterans with active service, entitling them to the full benefits of U.S. war veterans; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Congress passed the Rescission Act of 1946, which specifically mandated that services rendered by the Philippines Commonwealth Army “shall not be deemed active military, naval or air service for the purposes of any law of the U.S.,” thereby stripping these soldiers of equal recognition, compensation, and benefits; and

WHEREAS, securing equal and full benefits for Filipino World War II Veterans has been a long and challenging battle, but families, community members, and elected officials continue to champion their cause and work for passage of the Filipino Veterans Equality Bill of 2005; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. government granted citizenship to these veterans in 1990, but it is the Filipino Veterans Equity Bill of 2005 that would recognize their valiant military service through full recognition and full benefits, and with many Filipino World War II Veterans now in the 70s and 80s, their contributions should no longer be diminished;

NOW, THEREFORE, we, King County Executive Ron Sims and the Metropolitan King County Council, recognize the

FILIPINO WORLD WAR II VETERANS

and encourage all residents to join us in acknowledging the honor, dignity, and history of these distinguished soldiers by accepting the challenge of their struggle and giving a resounding voice to this deserving group of veterans.

DATED this third day of October, 2005.